

WIGAN ATHLETIC



Official Programme

20p

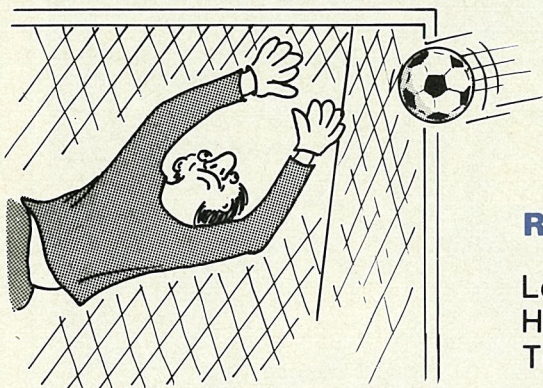
Saturday, 23rd February, 1980 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
- v -
DONCASTER
ROVERS

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Club Directory

WIGAN ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
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REGISTERED OFFICE:
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CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A.O. Horrocks.

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Mr. A. Muir.

DIRECTORS:
Messrs. J.H. Farrimond,
A. Eckersley, G.D. Gorner,
B. Connolly.

COMPANY SECRETARY:
Mr. D. Welsby.

TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
Mr. J.T. Sudworth.

HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:
Dr. G. Menon, Dr. S.K. Ahuja,
and Dr. J. Coffey.

Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Our front page pic this issue shows Peter Houghton in full flight down the left-hand touchline. (Photo by courtesy of Evening Post and Chronicle).

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good Afternoon all
A WARM WELCOME to Billy Bremner and his Doncaster side. This season Billy has got them moving along nicely and for a while his side was looking a threat to the top clubs. One or two wayward results have knocked them a bit, but last week they hammered

Scunthorpe United 5 - 0 and we also remember we lost 1 - 3 at Doncaster earlier in the season. So today will be a hard battle to get two points.

Joe Hinnigan

I would like to pay this tribute to Joey in wishing him all the very best in his future career. All the time I have been in football, I don't think I have ever met a more dedicated lad. If it were guaranteed that hard work would make a player, then he was a million to one on to succeed. It wouldn't matter whether he was doing shuttles, relays or five-a-sides, there is no way he wanted to be second best, and I am sure all the players will join Kenny and myself by wishing the "big fellä" all the best in the world.

One thing Joey will always be able to say is that his transfer to Sunderland went a long way to helping Wigan Athletic on its way to, being a top-class Football League club.

Enjoy today's game.
I. M. McNeill.

Ian McNeill

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TODAY we welcome the Directors, Staff, players and supporters of the Doncaster Rovers Football Club to Springfield Park for our return league fixture. "The Rovers" coming from an area which once had much in common with Wigan, will no doubt bring with them several "exiles", who left for the lucrative South Yorkshire coalfields several years ago. To those who once had their roots in the Wigan area, we extend a particularly warm welcome.

Last year, we twice managed to gain narrow 1 - 0 league victories over the Belle Vue side, but already this season, we have felt the lash of Billy Bremner's revitalised team, losing 1 - 3 at Doncaster in October. No doubt Ian McNeill and his boys will be seeking to reverse that result, but the current Doncaster side has built up a reputation for hard work and fighting spirit, so today's game will probably turn out to be yet another dour struggle for supremacy and the vital points to push one or the other side nearer a top-four place. At present both Doncaster Rovers and Wigan Athletic are occupying comfortable mid-table positions, yet both sides are only six points or so away from Bradford City in fourth place. Such a state of affairs emphasises the importance of today's game.

Always renowned fighters "Rovers" have spent much of their Football League life at Third and Fourth Division level, but in 1901 - 1902 (their first year in the league) actually finished seventh in the Second Division. Championship honours in the old Third Division

(North) in 1934 - 1935, 1946 - 1947 and 1949 - 1950 and championship honours in the Fourth Division in 1965 - 1966 and 1968 - 1969 are the highspots of their league career. The club reached the fifth round of the F.A. Challenge Cup Competition four times in five seasons between 1951 and 1956, but only on one occasion in 1975 - 1976 has the Doncaster club reached a similar stage in the Football League Cup Competition.

The Belle Vue Ground at Doncaster boasts a current ground capacity of 30,000 but, in 1948, actually housed 37,149 spectators for a Third Division (North) game against near neighbours Hull City. Record receipts of £8,936 were recorded for an F.A. Cup game against the mighty Liverpool in the Third Round of the 1973 -1974 competition. Among previous well-known managers at Doncaster have been Peter Doherty, Laurie McMenemy, Maurice Setters and Stan Anderson. Billy Bremner's pedigree cannot be questioned and we have no doubt that eventually the skill and terrier-like qualities which were evident in the ex-Leeds United star's own game will become evident in the play of the side which is slowly but surely emerging from a South Yorkshire area which is yearning for success.

Welcome then to our colleagues and friends from Doncaster. We trust you will enjoy your visit to Wigan, witness an enjoyable game and made a safe journey home tonight across the Pennines.

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NOTHING succeeds like success is a saying which is as true in the commercial world of the Wigan Athletic Club as it is in other walks of life. At this time of year things normally tend to slow down a little, but, of late, there has been a marked increase in the number of organisations and individuals making inquiries about ground advertising, programme advertising, a wide variety of PR activities, fund-raising schemes, ideas for increasing the range of goods offered in the Soccer Shop and several "one-off" items requiring our consideration and, sometimes, approval and action. Hardly a day has gone by recently without representatives, or firms with whom we already do business, giving us a call. Such hectic activity can temporarily throw the daily routine out of gear, but in the long run it can only be for the ultimate benefit of the club. Certainly all my staff are instructed to treat every caller, whether he or she be a youngster or an executive, with courtesy and consideration. The Wigan Athletic Football Club needs to generate goodwill and project the family-image at all times, and we in the Commercial Department, are doing our best to show that the club does care about the individual and that everyone's

contribution, however small, is valued.

On the fund-raising side of our activities, our lottery continues to do well and, with the paying-across-of a recent cheque, the Support for Soccer Society's contributions to the club now exceed £40,000 since the Treble Chance Lottery came into being. The Development Association activities are currently being reviewed and some progress of a less dramatic kind is being made. Indeed, in the very near future, major decisions will be taken in an attempt to increase the productivity of Development Association efforts, and, by the end of next season, it is hoped that the donations from that source will have been considerably increased. As ever, we are anxious to recruit new agents, so, if you think you can help, sign up at the offices today.

A particularly pleasing development with regard to match ball donorship has come about this year, with individual supporters or groups of supporters generously offering their assistance. Today, for instance, a group of supporters at the local Beloit-Walmesley's factory have got together to raise the £30 to cover the cost of the ball donation, and they are thanked most sincerely for putting their support into practical action.

This programme gives me my first opportunity since the Everton game to express my personal thanks to Rathbone Brothers Ltd., Bakers and Confectioners, Newtown, Wigan, for their interest in advertising on the back of the players' track-suits, and negotiating a very acceptable agreement with the Wigan Athletic Football Club. Certainly, the Rathbones name is being given useful publicity, and, at the same time, the club is benefitting financially, while the players not only look smart when they take the field but are also well-protected in the pre-match warm-up sessions.

Enjoy today's game.
Jack Sudworth
Commercial Manager

CONGRATULATIONS

Prior to today's kick-off, Colin Methven will receive a £100 cheque plus a trophy from a visiting representative of "MATCH WEEKLY", Colin, by virtue of a succession of fine playing performances, was "Matchman of the Month", in January, at Fourth Division level. Congratulations to Colin on his success, and our thanks to "Match Weekly" for their interest in our club and Association Football in general.

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

IT IS ALWAYS good to have players of ability in your team, but when certain situations arise ability alone is not enough. It is then that qualities like big heart, strength of character and a determination not to be beaten are needed.

Last Saturday we witnessed one of these situations when due to a variety of reasons we found ourselves in the unusual position (for us) of being 0 - 3 down to Manchester United at half time. It is moments like this also that I as a Manager must have a close look at myself and make sure that I possess the same qualities that I am about to demand from my players. Obviously at that stage something was drastically wrong, so something decisive had to be done. It is no use

blindly keeping to the same formula and hoping for the best so the team was completely re-arranged.

Young Steve Silcock was brought on to stabilise the back and we put more emphasis on attack in the second half by playing without a left back and gave John Wilkie, playing his first game after his ankle operation, a free role up front in the hope that he would get us a goal to put us back in the game. This he obliged us by doing and with John Curtis (also playing his first game after breaking his leg seven months ago) prompting us from midfield, we gradually clawed our way back into the game in the second half and finished up with a respectable 3 - 3 draw, which did not look possible at half time.

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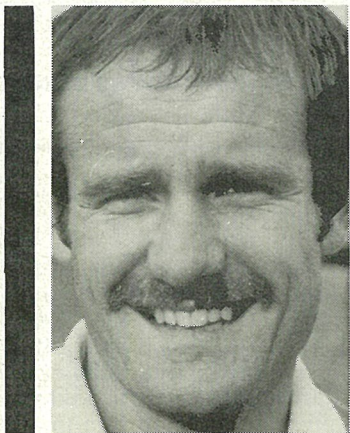
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Player Profile



IAN GILLIBRAND (Player-Coach)

IAN GILLIBRAND'S first contacts with Wigan in a footballing sense began as a schoolboy, when he represented Blackburn Schools' against Wigan Schools' in a Lancashire Schools' Cup game. Selection for Blackburn was rapidly followed by a place in the Lancashire Schools' XI and eventually, at fifteen years of age, Ian signed for Arsenal as an apprentice professional.

During his time at Highbury, Ian played in Arsenal's F.A. Youth Cup winning side in 1966, and gained several trophies in successful youth and junior team competitions. By 1968, "Gilly" was playing as a professional in the "Gunners" London Combination side, but, after a two month loan period at Blackburn and one month at Mansfield, Ian was unable to make the big breakthrough into League Football. Bertie Mee, then Manager of Arsenal, recommended Ian to Alan Saunders, Wigan Athletic's manager, and as, at that time, Wigan Athletic was employing full-time players and had big ambitions to get into the Football League, the popular Blackburn boy signed

up at Springfield Park, not knowing that it would take ten years for the Latics to realise their long-cherished ambition.

In his time at Wigan, Ian has played in many good teams, but recalls with pride the F.A. Cup game against Manchester City, the visit to Wembley and the disappointment of defeat against Scarborough in extra time, Brian Tiler's championship-winning outfit and Ian McNeill's contribution in building up the side which played at Birmingham and eventually gained admission to the Football League. Other happy memories are success in the Player of the Year Competition and a rare but spectacular goal (a thirty-five yarder) against Accrington Stanley in a Lancashire Junior Cup game, before a mere 1,500 spectators.

Now heavily involved on the coaching side at Wigan, Ian's ambition is to help Wigan Athletic in some small way to make the trip right through to the First Division.

Married to Janet with two little girls, Lisa and Karen, Ian Gillibrand likes nothing better than to relax at home away from the pressures that Soccer imposes.

The coaching certificate and experience gained at Durham University last Summer will stand "Gilly" in good stead as he makes the move from playing to coaching. It is only a tragedy that League Football came two or three years too late for one of the most loyal, one of the most effective, one of the most honest players ever to pull on a Wigan Athletic shirt. Wigan Athletic Football Club is indeed very fortunate to have a man of Ian Gillibrand's quality and character on its staff, and every genuine Latics follower will wish him well as he pursues his career at Springfield Park. The club's future is in very able hands.

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Photograph courtesy of the Evening Post & Chronicle



ABOVE

Colin Methven puts in a strong challenge at the Hereford defence.

ABOVE RIGHT

Derek Brownbill attempts to force his way into the six-yard box.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Peter Houghton rifles the ball past the stranded A.F. Bournemouth goalkeeper.

Springfield Spotlight



Photograph by courtesy of the Evening Post & Chronicle



Photograph by courtesy of the Wigan Observer

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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

ATHLETIC'S defeat at Bradford last Saturday was their first in the League for thirteen matches and so an excellent record fell away. But a record that fell in much more dramatic fashion happened in a match which took place on February 27th, 1971.

Athletic, in the Premier League then of course, were due to play Southern League Hillingdon Borough in the Third Round of the F.A. Challenge Trophy at Springfield Park.

Latics were favourites to lift the trophy that season — little wonder when you consider they were at the top of the league, had reached the third round of the F.A. Cup before going out to Manchester City, and had reached the late stages of the competition by beating Stafford Rangers at home and Boston United at York Street, no easy matches at all.

Hillingdon Borough would be no match for Latics, or so it was thought. A goal from Bishop midway through the second half proved to be the only one of the game and

Latics slumped to a disappointing home defeat — their first at Springfield Park for a staggering 47 matches in a run of success that had originated in November 1969. The game showed very clearly indeed that there are no certainties in football.

The Wigan Athletic team was: Reeves, Turner, Sutherland, Milne, Coutts, Gillibrand, Temple, Todd, Koo, Fleming, Oates, Sub. Ledgard.

Hillingdon Borough lined up: Lowe, Batt, Langley, Higginson, Newcombe, Moore, Fairchild, Bishop, Reeve, Carter, Knox, Sub. Vafiadis.

The match attendance was 8,733.

Pre-match opinion had been that Wigan's winger Derek Temple would be the key player because he was up against an ageing Jim Langley, the Hillingdon player-manager and former Fulham star. Langley was quoted in the local press as telling his team: "The rest of you get on with your jobs and don't worry about me." How right he was, because Temple hardly got a kick at the ball!

LATICS AWAY

At Tranmere Rovers, Monday, 25th February, 1980 — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Use Birkenhead Tunnel, follow signs for Heswall, dropping down into Borough Road and continue through lights into Prenton Road for Tranmere Rovers F.C.

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
* Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1-2	6,004	R Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart	
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0-0	7,591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie	Moore	
Aug 18	Darlington	2-2	2,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie ¹	Davids	
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1-2	6,927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Brownbill	
Aug 25	Stockport County	2-1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Moore	Purdie	N Ward	
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	1-2	8,198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Urquhart	
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2-1	4,390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill ¹	
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2-5	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart ¹	
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL	2-1	4,877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart ¹	
Sep 22	Hereford United	1-2	3,891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton ¹	Purdie	
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4-1	8,009	Shyne	Gore ¹	Hinnigan ¹	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urquhart	
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0-3	6,541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan ¹	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore ¹	Houghton ¹	Crompton	
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0-4	7,871	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton	
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1-3	4,169	Brown	Macivor ¹	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Houghton	Methven	
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2-1	5,454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1-1	5,036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Oct 27	Newport County	2-3	4,910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven ¹	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley	
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	4-1	5,001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Buckley	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Smart	
Nov 6	Rochdale	2-0	2,936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Buckley	
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4-1	4,618	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Brownbill	
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C.1	1-1	11,277	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven ¹	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart ¹	Moore	
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FAC1R	2-0	14,589	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0-0	6,158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	
Dec 8	Walsall	1-1	5,261	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	
Dec 21	CREWE	2-0	4,316	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Moore	
Dec 26	Peterborough	2-1	3,312	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Moore	
Dec 29	STOCKPORT	3-1	6,847	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Moore	Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Crompton	
Jan 5	Northwich V FAC2	2-2	5,249	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill	
Jan 7	NORTHWICH V FAC2R	1-0	11,298	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill ¹	
Jan 12	Portsmouth	1-1	15,625	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Quinn	Urquhart	Houghton ¹	
Jan 14	Chelsea FAC3	1-0	22,300	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Quinn	Urquhart	
Jan 26	Everton FAC4	0-3	51,863	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	
Feb 2	York City	2-1	2,400	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	
Feb 6	Bournemouth	2-1	5,904	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED	1-1	6,481	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn	
Feb 16	Bradford City	1-2	6,127	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Quinn ¹	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Moore	
Feb 23	DONCASTER															
Feb 25	Tranmere Rovers															
Feb 29	Lincoln City															
Mar 5	ALDERSHOT															
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY															
Mar 14	Torquay United															
Mar 18	Halifax Town															
Mar 22	TRANMERE															
Mar 26	PORT VALE															
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United															
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra															
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH															
Apr 7	Port Vale															
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN															
Apr 15	Hartlepool United															
Apr 19	Northampton Town															
Apr 26	WALSALL															
May 3	Aldershot															

Revised Lancashire Football Fixtures WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES

Feb. 29th	Stockport C. 'A'	A	To be arranged:	
Mar. 7th	Tranmere R. Res.	A		
Mar. 14th	Manchester C. 'A'	H	Rochdale	A
Mar. 22nd	Manchester C. 'A'	A	Carlisle U. Res.	A
Mar. 29th	Bradford C. Res.	H	Carlisle U. Res.	H
Apr. 5th	Bolton W. 'A'	A	Port Vale Res.	A
Apr. 12th	Burnley 'A'	A	Macclesfield T. Res.	A
Apr. 19th	Wrexham Res.	H	Crewe Alex. 'A'	A
Apr. 26th	Port Vale Res.	A		
May 3rd	Crewe Alex. 'A'	H		

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



TEAMS going for promotion do not usually sell their leading goalscorer, but that is exactly what Portsmouth have done. Portsmouth transferred eighteen-goal Colin Garwood to Aldershot, a club which has admired Garwood's talents for some time. Colin got off to a great start for his new club scoring on his debut against Walsall. However, Portsmouth did not hang on to the cash for long as they swooped on Vicarage Road to sign Watford defender Alan Garner for a fee approaching £60,000. Garner made his debut against York City but it was another new signing who stole the limelight. Derek Hood joined the Minstermen from Hull City and scored the winning goal in that game; only his second goal in League Football.

York City meanwhile are hoping that young John Byrne will soon get over illness because he is bound to come into the first team reckoning when midfield man Peter Lorimer returns to Canada next month.

Cardiff City's search for a goalkeeper took them around a number of Fourth Division clubs, including A.F.C. Bournemouth, but they finally settled for Lincoln City's Peter Grotier, whose departure leaves the Sincil Bank side around £35,000 better off.

Barring injury, Joe Hinnigan, released by Wigan for £150,000 (a record fee for a Fourth Division defender) was expected to make his debut for Sunderland at home to Luton today.

Bradford City's latest signing, Allan Thompson, made his debut against Latics last Saturday, while the man who scored both goals in City's 2 - 1 win, John Black, is currently on loan to 'The Paraders' from Wolves.

Port Vale's Alan Woolfall looked set to join Alliance Premier League side Stafford Rangers on loan but that deal has fallen through, while Bury are still hoping to clinch a £15,000 deal involving Stockport County's Phil Henson, a former

Manchester City player.

Also at Stockport County there have been major boardroom changes. Chairman, Freddie Pye, a major shareholder in Wigan Athletic, resigned recently while Eric Barnes, who took over the reins but did not occupy the chair for seven days, resigned over a dispute on the club's future policy.

Over at Spotland, Rochdale, Paul Hallows is anxious to get fit again, because the next time he turns out for 'The Dale' he will make his 200th appearance for the club. Still with Rochdale, the fines imposed by manager Bob Stokoe on his players for 'lack of effort' in a game against Tranmere Rovers were withdrawn prior to an appeals' tribunal hearing.

LEAGUE TABLE AS AT 19th FEBRUARY, 1980

	Home Goals					Away Goals				
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A Pts
Walsall	32	9	7	0	30 13	8	6	2	24	16 47
Huddersfield Town	32	11	2	2	45 13	7	6	4	27	23 44
Portsmouth	32	12	3	2	50 19	5	4	6	18	19 41
Bradford City	30	10	4	2	33 11	6	2	6	20	26 38
Newport County	31	10	5	2	32 18	5	1	8	22	20 36
Torquay United	29	11	3	0	34 11	2	6	7	16	28 35
Aldershot	30	9	3	4	26 13	5	3	6	17	17 34
Peterborough United	32	8	2	5	25 17	5	6	6	13	15 34
Lincoln City	30	8	8	1	28 10	3	3	8	13	23 33
Wigan Athletic	28	8	3	4	29 21	5	3	5	19	22 33
Doncaster Rovers	31	8	3	5	30 22	3	6	6	18	22 31
Bournemouth	32	6	5	5	22 18	3	8	5	17	18 31
Halifax Town	30	9	4	1	17 7	2	4	10	13	28 30
Northampton Town	31	11	2	2	25 11	0	6	10	12	39 30
Tranmere Rovers	30	8	1	5	26 15	3	6	7	14	23 29
Hartlepool United	30	8	5	3	28 20	3	2	9	15	22 29
Stockport County	31	6	5	4	18 19	4	2	10	12	32 27
York City	32	7	5	5	30 25	2	3	10	21	38 26
Hereford United	32	6	5	5	16 13	2	4	10	11	25 25
Darlington	31	6	6	2	22 13	1	5	11	13	36 25
Port Vale	31	5	3	7	21 15	3	4	9	17	34 23
Scunthorpe United	30	7	6	2	26 16	1	1	13	9	41 23
Rochdale	30	4	4	5	15 9	1	4	12	13	43 18
Crewe Alexandra	31	5	5	6	16 21	0	2	13	6	34 17

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BARRING any last minute action, it is coincidentally significant that Derek Welsby and Joe Hinnigan should be leaving the club at almost the same time, since Joe was the first player "signed" and the last player "transferred" by Derek during his five years at Springfield Park. Both Derek and Joe were part-timers in non-league days before going "full-time" when the Football League "dream" became reality. Both dedicated men now achieve "promotion" — Derek to the world of company finance and Joe to the Second Division of the Football League — Bon voyage, old friends, and thanks for your memories!!

There is no truth in the rumour that Jack Sudworth's office is being renamed "Poet's Corner", but it is true that each week's mail bag

brings in several efforts in versification from supporters inspired by the Wigan Athletic team's efforts. As yet limericks and songs of praise have not been submitted, but it can be only a matter of time before the inner passions of some as yet unknown supporter employ these art-forms to record their support. Keep sending in the material and we will do our best, from time to time, to publish the more suitable efforts in the matchday programme.

Alan Ball, Senior, called in at the ground the other day to see Ian McNeill, but, in passing, told us that he had recently visited a bar in Stockholm which was adorned with blue and white Wigan Athletic regalia. Mauritius, Majorca, the States, Stockholm, Prague . . . where next will we hear of people taking an interest in our club?

THE COMMITTEE and staff of the Supporters' Club wish all members, friends and visitors from Doncaster, a very good afternoon and our best wishes for a good sporting game.

On behalf of the Supporters' Club, I wish to offer our sincere thanks to Mr. Jack Sudworth, the B.B.C. (Manchester) and our Board of Directors for their co-operation in staging the presentation of the Radio Manchester Top Score Shield to Michael Moss before the start of the Hereford United match.

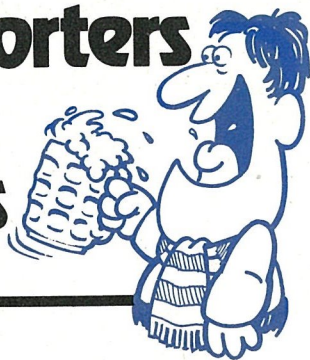
We have still been unable to fulfil our fixture with South Liverpool A.F.C. in the Federation Quiz, but do know that the winner will eventually have a home fixture with last year's winners — Leeds United — in the next round.

During March we intend to hold a Carnival Night in the club, with all proceeds being donated to the Sports' Section, which I am pleased to say is becoming the subject of tremendous interest. — More details later both about this night, and also the evening in April when we shall present one of Lancashire's top show-bands.

The Ladies' Section, Darts and Dominoes, has made arrangements with their league officials to hold the Annual presentation at the Latics Club on Thursday, 29th May, and our thanks to Dave Worswick and Mrs. Shiela Prior for their efforts in arranging this date.

On Sunday, 10th February, we had a change of artist from the advertised programme, and a

Supporters Club News



young lady from Worsley filled the spot, with a fantastic performance. We are all awaiting the next visit of "Marnie".

Meanwhile, to complete our February programme tonight we present Rob Hunter and tomorrow — Sunday an artist who is coming along with a really great record — Alan King.

Hoping to meet you in the club soon.

Sincerely,
Peter Woods.



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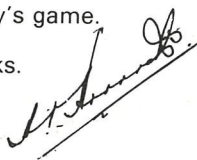
A last word from the chairman . . .

ON BEHALF OF the Wigan Athletic Football Club, I am pleased to welcome the Chairman, Directors, Staff and Supporters of Doncaster Rovers to Springfield Park today. Our three league fixtures with our friends from the Belle Vue Ground, since we joined the Football League have been very competitive, and I have little doubt that today's game will be another hard fought encounter.

A drawn home game against Hereford United and a somewhat unfortunate defeat at Bradford City have temporarily put a stop to our dramatic move up the league table and our drive for promotion, but victory today would again push us towards that much-sought after top four position. The run-in is likely to be long and demanding, but our supporters can make the players' task that little bit easier by shouting their heroes home as the pressures mount in the coming weeks.

Supporters will know that it is not my normal policy to single out individuals for special mention, but I feel that it would be most ungrateful of me not to say a few words about the departure of Company Secretary, Derek Welsby, and team stalwart, Joe Hinnigan. Both have bridged the gap between non-league and Football League soccer, both have completed almost five years at Springfield Park, and both have played a valuable part in our development as a respected member of the Fourth Division of the Football League. On behalf of all connected with the Wigan Athletic Football Club, I thank them most sincerely for their contributions, and they carry with them all our best wishes for their future success and happiness, as they prepare to meet new challenges.

Enjoy today's game.
Sincerely,
A. O. Horrocks.



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Teams

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Athletic**
Royal Blue
& White Stripes

John Brown	1	Dennis Peacock
Ron MacIvor	2	Billy Russell
Kevin Smart	3	Glyn Snodin
Tommy Gore	4	Steve Lister
Dave Fretwell	5	Pat Lally
Neil Davids	6	Hugh Dowd
Tony Quinn	7	Shaun Flannigan
Jeff Wright	8	Stewart Mell
Peter Houghton	9	Alan Warboys
Derek Brownbill	10	Alan Little
George Urquhart	11	David Bentley
Micky Moore	12	Jack Lewis

**Doncaster
Rovers**
Green

Officials

Referee:

Mr. Derek Owen
(Wirral)

Joined the Football League in 1972 having gained promotion through the Northern Premier, Cheshire County, West Cheshire and Chester Leagues. Refereed the Northern Premier League Challenge Shield in 1976/77. Lined Quarter-Final of Football League Cup in 1973/74 and 1975/76, plus several F.A. Challenge Cup appointments.

Linesmen:

Red Flag

Mr. J.M. Rutter
(Northwich)

Yellow Flag

Mr. J.J. Shawcross
(Northwich)

Here next...

Wednesday, 5th March, 1980. Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC v ALDERSHOT

Football League Division Four